



Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology

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Testimony of Dr. Thomas Maloney
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before

Commerce Committee

February 28, 2012

Regarding

Raised Bill No. 224

An Act Increasing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Businesses
Through Research and Development

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, members of the Committee, my name is Dr. Thomas Maloney, Director of the Research, Applications, and Technology Initiative at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT) in East Hartford, CT. Part of CCAT's mission is to develop and apply advanced manufacturing technologies to strengthen the competitiveness of the manufacturing community. I am here today to ask, as part of the growing partnership between University of Connecticut and CCAT relative to the Technology Park and Advanced Manufacturing Center, that CCAT be included in this Bill.

CCAT and the University of Connecticut are creating an alliance partnership focused on advanced manufacturing. Together we aim to conduct advanced research and development, near-term applied research and development, and we aim to help develop the next generation manufacturing workforce and transition manufacturing technologies to our manufacturing supply base. We will leverage our facilities and resources and strengthen them in a complementary manner focused on innovations that will strengthen our global competitiveness.

CCAT serves as a resource to manufacturers today and we convene a council of Connecticut manufacturers on a quarterly basis to solve manufacturing challenges. Collectively, through our Machining Applications Laboratory, Laser Applications Laboratory, and Modeling and Simulation Laboratory, we develop and transition state-of-the-art manufacturing process technology to small and medium sized manufacturers. CCAT's facilities already include some of the newest equipment available anywhere in the world. These facilities are utilized as an enabling resource that can help transition new manufacturing advancements to industry. The manufacturing research and development that is to be conducted by the University of Connecticut can be advanced to the required manufacturing readiness levels through applied

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research and development by CCAT using production equipment and processes. The advanced manufacturing knowledge generated by University of Connecticut and by CCAT can then be transitioned to the manufacturing supply base. Together, advanced manufacturing facilities and technical assistance will be shared to meet the growing needs of our manufacturers.

CCAT has a successful track record in strengthening the competitiveness of our manufacturers and stimulating job creation. Previous legislation passed by this Commerce Committee and funded through DECD has proven this premise. In 2005, the Aerospace and Defense Initiative (ADI) directed a \$2M investment at improving the efficiency and productivity of Connecticut's Aerospace & Defense (A&D) sector. The money was used to help pay for 246 process improvement projects at 69 companies. These 69 companies invested \$2M of their own money and over \$4M of in-kind labor in these improvement projects; a clear example of leveraging the State's investment. Over 700 new jobs were created at the participating companies between 2006 and mid-2009. Together, I believe that UConn and CCAT can implement significant innovation to our manufacturers.

In closing, I wish to thank this Committee for this opportunity to provide input.